

## REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed 8 February 2006, Applicant has amended Claim 1, and added new claims 14 - 16. Claims 1 - 16 are currently pending in the application.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of the subject matter of Claim 3. The amendments to Claim 1, and newly added claims 14 and 15, clarify that the paddle wheel, used to dispense the feed pellets, need not be mounted substantially vertically. Claims 14 and 15 add that feature, while it has been removed from Claim 1. Claim 16 specifies that the spinner wheel rotates in a substantially horizontal plane.

Claims 1, 2, and 4 - 13 were rejected over the combination of the Ransom II and Hetrick references. Such rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has provided two separate rotating wheels in the claimed feed dispenser. The prior art, as shown by the cited references, utilized a gate with a door to drop the pellets from the feed hopper. This design was prone to blockage, and Applicant's design using a spinner plate instead of a gate design solves this problem.

The Ransom and Hetrick references cannot be combined in the manner suggested in the Office Action in order to obviate Applicant's claims. Ransom teaches the use of a door and gate to drop the feed pellets out of the hopper. This design has proven prone to blockage, as evidenced by the manufacture's design change to utilize an auger to dispense the feed, instead of a gate and door. As described above, the claims of the present application use a relatively slow spinning spinner plate to release the feed pellets from the hopper.

The Hetrick reference operates in the same manner. It teaches the use of a gate below the hopper, which, when open, drops the material onto the horizontally mounted spreader wheel. The horizontally mounted wheel of Hetrick is the same wheel as the wheel of Ransom, and the higher speed paddle wheel of the present claims. Hetrick still teaches use of a gate to release the material, just as the gate used by Ransom and other prior art.

Applicant's claimed device uses the slower moving spinner plate *instead of* a gate, which has solved the problem of jams caused, in particular, by dust and moisture in the feed. Combining Hetrick and Ransom simply teaches that the spreader wheel can be mounted horizontally or vertically, not a new concept and not relevant to the use of two separate rotating wheels as set forth in the claims. (Mounting the spreader wheel at various orientations changes the spread pattern of the feed, but has no bearing on the claimed concept that replaces the door below the hopper.)

Therefore, no combination of the prior art suggests the combination of a horizontally rotating spinner plate to release the feed, instead of a gate or door, combined with a higher speed spreader wheel, whether mounted vertically or any other orientation. The claims currently in the application are therefore patentably distinct over the cited art, and Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K. Hill', is written over a horizontal line.

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